



PATENT

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January 21, 2004

Date

Tamra Miller

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Attorney Docket No.: 501082.04 (98-0616.03)

Serial No. : 09/652,993

Group Art Unit : 2815

Filed : August 31, 2000

Examiner : Jose R. Diaz

Confirmation No. : 4012

Date of Notice
of Allowance : October 21, 2003

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A
CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

While the combinations of elements recited in the allowed claims are allowable, the undersigned would like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicant may elect to pursue

such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention, through a continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Arterberry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Arterberry" clearly distinguishable.

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